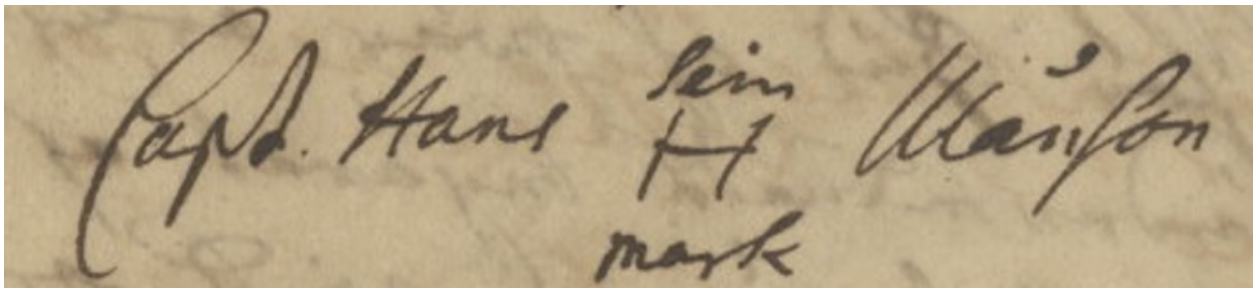
Captain Hans Mansson:
Timeline of Early Records and His Migration into New Jersey from Pennsylvania

By: Carla Welsh (nee Seitz), a descendant

July 6, 2025



The mark of Captain Hans Mansson found in a church book held by Gloria Dei.

TIMELINE:

1612: Hans Mansson was born circa 1612, per deposition gathered by William Penn designated a "Sweeds Certificat," in which Hans stated he was age 72:
The 25th of the Mon:[th] called June 1684. Peter Cock aged seventy foure, Peter Ramb[o] seventy two & **Hamce Monson** [Hance Mansson] aged seventy two years or there abouts, appeared beforeus W[illia]m Welch, James Claypoole & Thomas Wynne three of the Kings Justices of the peace for the County of Philadelphia in theProvince of Pennsilvania, Who being solemnly attested, did severallie declare that what they have here respectively certified & subscrybed is the truth & nothing but the truth, as God shall help them.Wm Welch [seal], James Claypoole [seal], Tho Wynne [seal]. Pennsilvania
The Certificate and Deposition of Certain Antient Sweeds Living on the West side of Delaware.
This document is located: Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A Catalogue of Books & Manuscripts Relating to the Swedish Colonization on the Delaware River; Coates List #16, Penn Agency, Thomas Cadwalader Section, Cadwalader Collection.
Info printed in: Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, vol. 91, issue 1, January 1967, pp. 35–37.
https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/view/42227/41948
*"Hans/Hance" was short for "Johannes" or anglicized to "John."

1641: Hans Mansson left Sweden and came to New Sweden on the vessel Charitas as a convict servant to serve a 6 year sentence. He later became a free man. In Sweden, he was sentenced to death as punishment for cutting down royal trees, which was then commuted on the condition that he serve in New Sweden for six years as an indentured servant.
https://www.varnhemshistoria.se/varnhems-byar,-g%C3%A5rdar,-platser-h%C3%A4ndelser/the-abbey-garden-in-varnhem-acquired-by-the-crown-1527-a-history-of-chopped-down-fruit-trees-1640-44732631

1643–1644: Hanns Mansonn is a convict laborer working in the tobacco fields in Upland (present-day Chester/Upland, Delaware County, Pennsylvania). He became a Free Man a few years later.
Source: Adapted from the list of Gov. Printz, 1644)
Amandus Johnson, The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware…, vol. 2, p. 704.
https://ia801302.us.archive.org/31/items/swedishsettleme02john/swedishsettleme02john.pdf

1647: Hans Mansson becomes a free man. He then settled in Aronameck in Kingsessing, which was a Swedish colony in present-day Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1654: Hans Mansson married Ella Stille, daughter of Olof Stille, based upon calculations. Ella's first husband Peter Jochimsson died before 27 JUL 1654, and Hans and Ella's first child was born circa 1655, so Hans and Ella married circa 1654.

25 MAY 1660: Petition of **Hans Moensen**, Peter Kock, and Peter Andriesen. They said there was not sufficient land obtained at Passayung for the pasture of their creatures, and ardently wished not to remove to there.
Samuel Hazard, Annals of Pennsylvania. Page 314
https://archive.org/details/annalsofpennsylv00haza/page/314/mode/2up

10 MAR 1670: Patent granted to **Hans Manson** by Governor Francis Lovelace of New York for 1,000 acres on the west of Skuylkill. Land was resurveyed at a later date and found to contain 1,100 acres.
William H. Egle, Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd Series, vol. 19, p. 487.
https://archive.org/details/minutesofboardof01penn/page/486/mode/2up

1672: The Swedish militia in 1672 was not a formal army, but more like a community organized defense force. Hans Mansson was its commander at Wicaco (Philadelphia, PA). Wicaco was a strategic site, both a river port and the center of worship and gathering. The blockhouse there served dual purposes as a militia station, place of worship, and burial ground.
From this point forward, Hans is referred to as "Captain."
https://www.varnhemshistoria.se/varnhems-byar,-g%C3%A5rdar,-platser-h%C3%A4ndelser/the-abbey-garden-in-varnhem-acquired-by-the-crown-1527-a-history-of-chopped-down-fruit-trees-1640-44732631

FEB 1674: Per Peter Stebbins Craig, Hans Mansson "purchased rights for 500 acres from the New Jersey government." No source cited.
LINK: https://colonialswedes.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/SCNewsSu10.pdf
*This FEB 1674 permit of **"Captain Hance"** is mentioned in a court held at Burlington County, NJ, on 14 JUN 1680.
The Burlington court book : a record of Quaker jurisprudence in west New Jersey, 1680-1709, p. 3.
https://archive.org/details/burlingtoncourtb00unse/page/n119/mode/2up
*Page 28 mentions the 500 acres.
https://archive.org/details/burlingtoncourtb00unse/page/n169/mode/2up

20 SEP 1675: Captain Hans Monson is surveyed, on the tract of land he now dwells, called Oronemink, situate on ye westward side of Delaware River, and on the west side of the Scuyle Kill… containing 1,100 acres of land, which was formerly granted unto ye said Captain Mounson bearing date 10 MAR ___ [1670].
Albert Cook Myers, Walter Wharton's Land Survey Register 1675–1679. Pages 69–71.
https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39076001551014&seq=1&q1=hans

11 SEP 1677: Upland Court grants petition request by **Captain Hans Moens** to take up in "Pemipaks Creeke on ye syde of Paequessink Creeke 300 acres of land."
The Record of the Court at Upland, p. 64:
https://archive.org/details/recordcourtatup00denngoog/page/64/mode/2up

13 NOV 1677: Upland Court. **Hans Moensen** and others involved in petition requesting to settle in a town together on the west side of the river just below the falls. They request 100 acres each.
It does not appear that this application for a grant below the Trenton Falls was ever conceded, or the settlement made, and the petition may have been rejected.
The Record of the Court at Upland, p. 74:
https://archive.org/details/recordcourtatup00denngoog/page/74/mode/2up

JUN 1680: Per Peter Stebbins Craig, "by June of 1680, with the establishment of Burlington County, Mansson, Keen, and King laid claim to 500 acres bordering the Delaware River, north of Pennsauken Creek." No source cited.
LINK: https://colonialswedes.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/SCNewsSu10.pdf

14 JUN 1680: Captain Hance Monse and others are listed as Freeholders and Inhabitants in a court held at Burlington County, West New Jersey.
H. Clay Reed and George J. Miller, The Burlington court book : a record of Quaker jurisprudence in west New Jersey, 1680-1709, p.1.
https://archive.org/details/burlingtoncourtb00unse/page/n115/mode/2up

4 MAR 1681: William Penn received the charter of Pennsylvania from King Charles II.

29 APR 1681: Hans Mansson transferred his 1,100 acre tract in Pennsylvania to his stepson, Peter Petersson Yocum.
William H. Egle, Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd Series, vol. 19, p. 487.
https://archive.org/details/minutesofboardof01penn/page/486/mode/2up

4 AUG 1682: Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hance Monsiur**) along with Frederick Frederickson and Jonas Keene, were surveyed 500 acres in West Jersey "lying at their new dwelling houses by the river," indicating that they had established residence and settlement, not just speculative landholding.
NJSA, Revels Surveys/Book A (WJ), p. 27.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/Revelp027.pdf

24 AUG 1682: Frederick Frederickson and John Hance were surveyed one parcel of land in West Jersey by the river, "beginning at ye corner of **Hance Monsiur's** land next to ye river." *John Hance* is John Hance Steelman Sr., the son of Hans Mansson and Ella Stille (daughter of Olof Stille). At this time, the family had not yet adopted the surname *Steelman*, that came into use after Hans's death.
NJSA, Revels Surveys/Book A (WJ), p. 27.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/Revelp027.pdf

29th Day, 5th Month (July), 1683: Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hans Mounson**) conveyed land to Garret Enockson.
William H. Egle, Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd Series, vol. 19, p. 389–390.
https://archive.org/details/minutesofboardof01penn/page/390/mode/2up

23rd Day, 12th Month, 1683 (23 FEB 1684): Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hance Monseur**), Jonas Keene, and Frederick Frederickson conveyed land in deed of 500 acres, already surveyed and in their possession.
NJSA, Book B, Pt. 1 (WJ), p. 36.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/SSTSE023_WJ_Deed_Book_B_Pt_1_p_036.pdf

7th Month (September) 1684: Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hance Monsier**) was surveyed one parcel of land "abutting on Pensaukin Creek." This is in the region of present-day Pennsauken Creek, Cinnaminson Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. *Cinnaminson* was originally called **Senamensing**, a Lenape word meaning "Sweetwater," a reference to the sugar maple trees that once grew along the Delaware River in that area.
NJSA, Revels Surveys/Book A (WJ), p. 92.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/Revelp092.pdf

1st day, 8th month, 1687: Lasse Cock, Gunner Ramboe, Andrew Swanson, **Hanse Monson**, Andrew Bludgon, Monce Cook, John Cook, Peter Nealson, Swan Swanson for himself and in right of Andrew Salung, Errick Mullecre, Chrystian Thomson, Mully Nelson, John Maceson, Wolley Swanson, John Stelley [Stille], Lasse Anderson, Mitchell Nelson, John Harper in right of Hance Ereck Cock, Walter King, Thomas Fairman, for in consideration of 100 gilders appear to them paid by the Society Traders in Pennsylvania… Recorded the 28th day, 1687. Philadelphia PA Deed Book E1, pages 632–634.
FamilySearch.org, DGS #4145185, images 547-548.
https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89GF-YPKQ

10th Day, 2nd Month (April), 1688: Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hance Monseur**), identified as a planter of "Sinamonsink" in Burlington County, West Jersey, received 100 acres of land from William Biddle of Mount Hope, Burlington County, West Jersey. The land was located in the Second Tenth (London Tenth) of West Jersey, confirming Hans's continued settlement and ownership in Cinnaminson Township near Pennsauken Creek. When West Jersey was being organized in the late 1600s, the land was divided into **tenths**, or sections, for settlement and governance. These were essentially **large tracts of land granted to groups of proprietors**, often linked to Quaker investors from England. The **First Tenth** was settled earliest (around Burlington). The **Second Tenth** was located **just south of the First**, and covered the area along the **Delaware River in what is now Cinnaminson, Palmyra, Riverton, and parts of Pennsauken,** all in **Burlington County, New Jersey.**
NJSA, Book B, Pt 1 (WJ), p. 255-256.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/SSTSE023_WJ_Deed_Book_B_Pt_1_p_255-256.pdf

2 FEB 1689: Captain Hans Manson and others sign church record (Wicaco Congregation/Gloria Dei/Philadelphia). Images 11–12.
https://philadelphiacongregations.org/records/item/GloriaDei.RecordsMiscellaneous1636-1760#

20 APR 1689: Hans Mansson (recorded as **Hance Manson**) signed deed as witness.
NJSA, Book B, Pt. 2 (WJ), p. 465.
https://www.nj.gov/state/darm/EarlyLandRecordsPDF/SSTSE023_WJ_Deed_Book_B_Pt_2_p_465.pdf

1691: Hans Mansson died circa 1691. He left a will, but the will has never been found (see 25 MAY 1730 land record below for that mention). Place of burial is either Gloria Dei Church (Wicaco Congregation, Philadelphia, PA) or Old Swedes/Trinity Church (Raccoon Congregation), Swedesboro, New Jersey.
*Hans's wife Ella was buried 22 JAN 1718:
"1718: On January 10th, Carl Hoffman was buried. On the 22nd of the same month, Ella Steehlman, 80 years old, who had come from Sweden." Ella is buried at Old Swedes/Trinity Church (Raccoon Congregation), Swedesboro, New Jersey.
Reference: see page 325: "The records of the Swedish Lutheran churches at Raccoon and Penns Neck, 1713-1786." By: Amandus Johnson, Federal Writers Project, NJ, et al.
https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/267003/

1692: Hans Mansson's property was taxed to "Widow Hance."
Reference: The Swedish Colonial News, Volume 1, Number 10, Fall 1994 edition, article entitled "Hans Mansson and His Steelman Family," by: Dr. Peter S. Craig, made available by The Swedish Colonial Society.
https://colonialswedes.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SCSJournal_1994-Fall.pdf

20 FEB 1695/6: Court of Session and Court of Common Pleas held at Burlington, New Jersey. Peter Monseur is Defendant. Action Trespass. Samuell Nicholls is Plaintiff. Daniell Leeds attested deposeth that the meadow upon the front of the Upland and now in question belongs to Captain Hance. Jury find for the Defendant, and Judgement awarded thereupon.
*Captain Hance is Hans Mansson. He must have owned a piece of land in Upland (present-day Crum Creek/Chester Creek areas, Chester, Delaware County, PA).
*Peter Monseur is Hans Mansson's son, Peter. Around this time, the "Steelman" name was not yet created. In NJ land records Hans Mansson was recorded as "Hance Monseur."
The Burlington court book : a record of Quaker jurisprudence in west New Jersey, 1680-1709, p. 185.
https://archive.org/details/burlingtoncourtb00unse/page/n483/mode/2up

1697: Steelman surname created. In Gloria Dei Church Record, in the 1697 Rudman Census, under "Senamensing on the other side of the river," is "Mrs. Ella, mother of the Steelmans now, with sons Eric, 16, and Charles, 18."
Historical accounts of Swedish settlement along the Delaware River and financial records of Gloria Dei, 1653-1760, image 56.
https://philadelphiacongregations.org/records/item/GloriaDei.RecordsMiscellaneous1636-1760#

8 AUG 1698: Per Gloria Dei church payment account, "widow Ella Steelman, of Sinamensing, gave nothing." Image 240. Jons Steelman (Jons/Joens is James) and Peter Steelman (sons of Hans and Ella) are also listed in Sinamensing on this page.
*"Jons Steelman" is James Steelman, not his brother John Hance Steelman.
*John Hance Steelman (eldest son of Hans Mansson and Ella), was living in Cecil County, Maryland at that time, per his 1695 Naturalization record. The name John was written as "Johan" or "Hans/Hance" for a nickname.
*The name of "Jons/Joens" meant "James" for the Swedish people of this region.
https://philadelphiacongregations.org/records/item/GloriaDei.RecordsMiscellaneous1636-1760#

25 MAY 1730: A deed that confirms the name change from "Mansson" to "Steelman" is at New Jersey State Archives, West Jersey Deed Book DD, page 206, 25 MAY 1730, Conveyance by Charles Steelman (who was grandson of Hans Mansson and Ella Stille), and the deed states "...land was purchased of William Biddle by Hance Monsier grandfather of the said Charles Steelman by deed of 10 APR 1688 and sometime after was bequeathed by Hance Monsier to Charles Steelman father of the grantor, Party to this Present by the last will and testament of ye P. Haunce Monsier..." This deed mentions that Hans left a will, but his will has never been found.
New Jersey State Archives: DD (WJ) : Folio 206 (SSTSE023)

The Children of Hans Mansson and Ella Stille (daughter of Olof Stille):

1. John Hance/Hans Steelman, Sr. (1655–1749), originally referred to as just "John Hance" before the Steelman surname was created. He married Maria Stalcop.
2. James (Jons, Joens) Steelman (b. 1660s/1670s, d. 1734), married twice: 1st wife was Susannah Toy, 2nd wife was Katherine Ouster.
3. Charles Steelman, born by 1672, died 1708, married Anna Nelson, the granddaughter of Nils and Margaret Matson (the Pennsylvania woman accused of witchcraft in FEB 1684 Gregorian Calendar time). Anna's father was Anthony Nelson.
4. Peter Steelman (referred to as Peter Monseur before the Steelman surname was adopted). He married Gertrude/Gartara Hansdotter Keen.
5. Eric Steelman (1681–1731). His wife's name is not known.
6. Anders Steelman (died in 1726 in Delaware: this is a new Steelman man I found which has never been found before). Found his burial record in Holy Trinity church records of Wilmington, DE.
7. Christiern Steelman/Stillman, married Mary___.

—----------

Before her marriage to Hans Mansson, Ella's first husband was Peter Jochimsson, whom she had 2 children with: Peter Yocum (1653–1702), and Elizabeth. Peter married Judith ___. Elizabeth married John Ogle.

Compiled by Carla Welsh (nee Seitz), a descendant of Hans Mansson and Ella Stille, who has proven her ancestry with The Swedish Colonial Society and obtained Forefather status. Both of her 5th great-grandmothers were Steelmans. She is of the Egg Harbor Township NJ Steelman branch. Hans Mansson and Ella Stille are her 8th and 9th great-grandparents.